

## **Minutes of the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup November 3, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW) was called to order by Chair Nancy Krupiarz at 1:35 p.m., Tuesday November 3, 2015, via conference call and Go-To meeting. The following members were present:

*Nancy Krupiarz, Chair  
Andrea Ketchmark  
Brindley Byrd  
Mary Bohling  
Carol Fulsher*

The following member(s) were absent: *Dennis Hansen, Emily Meyerson*

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), Liaisons were present: *Kristen Bennett, Claire Stevens from MDOT was also present.*

Members of the Public: Bill Manehan (Whitefish Point), Claudia Russel Nodan (Pentwater, MI), Lee Kurt (Central Lake), Denny Henson, Bob xx (City of Ypsilanti), Connie Watson, Abby Debink (Superior Water Partnership), Jason Jones (Potawatomi Trail), Elizabeth Riggs (Huron River Watershed Council), Ed Jones

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Chair Krupiarz called the meeting to order and extended a welcome. Introductions of the NAW members and others followed.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

Jason Jones- Debates on E-bike use on Non-Motorized trails

- According to DNR State Land Use Rules and e-bike would be considered a Motorized vehicle
- Would make them illegal on non-motorized trails
- Potawatomi trails is in support of this because of the potential speeds

Bill Manehan - NAW Website needs updating. There is misinformation on it.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of the November 3, 2015 Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Bohling moved to approve the November 3, 2015 Agenda of the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fulsher and it carried unanimously.

Approval of the August 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Ketchmark moved to approve the August 12, 2015 meeting minutes of the Non-motorized Advisory Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Mr. Byrd and it carried unanimously.

## UPDATES

- *MTAC Meeting- October 21, 2015*
  - *Ms. Krupiarz discussed the items from the MTAC meeting on October 21, 2015.*
    - *Brindley Byrd is now officially on the NAW Committee*
    - *Presentation from Kirk Lapham – DNR regarding weakening of the Recreational Use Act due to MI Court of Appeals Case, Duffy v. Irons Area Tourist Assoc. – snowmobiler injured on Little Manistee Trail. Court narrowly interpreted the RUA to exclude entities that contract to maintain trails. It said that only owners, tenants and lessees were protected*
    - *HB 4244 (Rep. Pettalia) has a bill opening up the RUA to cover aviation activities. Even though it has already passed the House, DNR is working with Rep. to widen coverage to entities that maintain trails that are on property that they don't own or lease. An amendment to HB 4244 has been prepared and will be introduced in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The representative is supportive of the amendment.*
    - *Presentation from Tom Weston on the Marquette Portal project. Trails data is all collected, audited and converted to Code for America format (900 miles). Website using the data is almost ready; will go live before deer season. They will be feeding Pure Michigan, Google & Bing as well as All Trails, Research sites like Polaris and Strava – gives DNR data as to where people are using the trails and where they are not. There is a big ask into the Governor for the next step towards going statewide with this project. Next ask is to do this for the whole Iron Belle Trail.*
    - *Iron Belle Trail Signage - DNR has been working on signage to be used on the Iron Belle Trail. Signage will take various forms depending on what the trail entity already has in terms of names and signage and how visible they want Iron Belle Trail to be. On-road signage will conform to MUTCD and has been coordinated with MDOT. Existing trails with signs may only want or need a sticker or plaque to be placed on existing signs or confidence posts. Trails without existing signage would have the IBT logo designed in conjunction with the new trail signage or kiosk (example: Great Lake to Lake Trail). Signage will be a major emphasis in the next RFP for Iron Belle Trail grants so that some visibility for the IBT may be established. Guidance will be located on [www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails) under the Belle Logo*
  - *Next year's MTAC dates – April 12, July 7, and October 11<sup>th</sup>*
- *NAW Member Round Table Reports*
  - *Ms. Ketchmark stated that NCTA is working on a needs assessment for the IBT with their regional Trail Coordinator Kenny W. They are also working on a couple of large Acquisitions in the UP.*
  - *Mr. Byrd is having discussions with the MMBA. They are looking to expand their membership. Iron Man Cometh is the largest North American Mountain Biking Race. It is sold out for this year with 3500 riders. Snowbikes and fat tire bikes*

are the trend in biking and riders are looking for a 12 month experience. Land Owners will need a strategy for how to accommodate this.

- Ms. Fulsher stated that she recently attended the Midwest America Trails and Greenways Conference in Iowa. She won awards for her work in the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.
- Ms. Bohling mentioned the Quiet Water Symposium that will be held March 2016 in Lansing. This group is also looking into doing another State-wide conference. There are several local water trails seeking CZM funding.
- Iron Belle Trail planning efforts
  - Ms. Bennett discussed the next round of Mini grants that will be out in the next week or so. DNR has \$350,000 for grants this round. Applications will again be capped at low \$\$ amounts.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Framework for Trail Funding
  - Ms. Krupiarz discussed the excel spreadsheet (see attached) that she is having her intern work on. It discusses how other states fund their non-motorized trails. The next step is to do some polling to determine what the needs area. She asked if we needed a separate committee to create a campaign and 501c4, or to look at the next Governors campaign. It was determined by discussion with committee that we are not at that point yet. Andrea will work with MTGA intern to help update this spreadsheet by January 1, 2016.
- Refine the definition of a state-wide trails network
  - Ms. Bennett stated that Nicole Colberg from the Parks and Recreation Division of the DNR is working on a revision for this and Pure Michigan Rules. Kriss will have an update for February 2016 meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

- CCC
  - Ms. Krupiarz discussed that maintenance needs are huge on Trails. Utilizing a CCC program could help trails meet that maintenance need. It would also help get young people interested in Natural Resources and Natural Resource related jobs. At the recent MATAG Conference in Iowa she sat through a presentation from the Illinois Trail Alliance. They are a trails stewardship program and they used the Americore program out of Vitton Iowa to get a crew for 8 weeks for several projects. Discussion was held on whether we need a State-wide program when there are programs in place in several places in the State. It was determined that we need to make these groups more widely known and provide resources to help trail groups to be able to access.
- Next Michigan Trails Legislative Day
  - None for 2016
  - MTGA planning one for 2017
- Legislative issues of e-bikes and maintenance group liability coverage

- *Ms. Krupiarz discussed that E-bikes are still a draft bill. There is MDOT legislation moving to define e-bikes for roadway use. Claire will be asked for an update on this for next meeting. In the State Land Use Orders of the Director Chapter one defines a motor vehicle as anything other than muscle or wind driven. This group along with the DNR needs to determine if this is an issue of mobility needs versus recreational use. If we believe that these are needed for mobility assistance it may fall under the PAMD, but if it is purely for recreation, then do we want these on Non-Motorized Only trails?*
- *Top Issues of Concern for each group*
  - *Nancy was prepared with the information for MTAC, but it did not come up in their meeting.*

## STAFF REPORTS

- *DNR Staff Changes*
  - *Ms. Bennett explained that the trails Section is still figuring out the best way to organize and that some positions are being filled and other are still in flux with Parks and Recreation Division making many changes to their organization.*
- *Other*
  - *Claudia from Pentwater wants to connect a trail to the Hart Montague Trail. They are 5.1 miles away from making that connection. She is looking for any guidance or assistance from this committee.*
  - *Jason Jones has concerns that the Iron Belle Trail along the Hiking route will take away from what the Mountain Bikers are allowed to do. The DNR does not plan to change any currently allowed uses along this route. All Land Managers have a right to determine the use on their land. DNR encourages communities along the Hiking route that are not part of the North Country Trail, to consider non- Motorized **multi use** trails. Along the North Country Trail, the NPS Foundation documents are the determining document and any trail gaps will be openly discussed for their optimum location and best intended use.*

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10pm.

2016 Meeting Dates:

February 17 (this may change to Feb. 18)

May 11

August 10

November 2

1:30 to 3:30pm